

DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER RAPER
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL**

**FROM: TAYLOR R. BROOKS
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2021

SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA UTILITIES' APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING A CHANGE IN NATURAL GAS RATES AND CHARGES; CASE NO. AVU-G-21-07.

On July 2, 2021, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Company”) filed its annual Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (“PGA”) Application asking to *increase* its annualized revenues by about \$9.0 million or approximately 13.5%. *See* Case No. AVU-G-21-04. On August 31, 2021, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) approved the Company’s application and ordered the proposed change to its natural gas rates and charges. *See* Order No. 35151, p. 5. Additionally, the Commission ordered that the Company “promptly apply to amend its weighted average cost of gas (“WACOG”) if gas prices materially deviated from the WACOG [approved in Order No. 35151.]” *Id.* at 6.

On December 3, 2021, the Company filed an “Out of Cycle” PGA to amend the commodity WACOG in Schedule 150 due to a material change in natural gas prices. Application at 2. The Company now seeks to *increase* its annualized revenues by approximately \$3.3 million or about 8.1%. *Id.* at 1. If the Company’s request is approved, a residential or small commercial customer using an average of 63 therms for the period January – October 2022 will see an *increase* of \$3.93 per month, or approximately 7.6%. *Id.* The present bill for 63 therms is \$51.93 while the proposed bill is \$55.86. The Company requests an effective date of February 1, 2022.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the case be processed through Modified Procedure, with a Staff and interested persons comment deadline of **January 6, 2022** and a Company reply deadline of **January 13, 2022**.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission wish to issue a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure with a Staff and interested persons comment deadline of **January 6, 2022** and a Company reply deadline of **January 13, 2022**?



Taylor R. Brooks
Deputy Attorney General

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